ADDRESS

OF THE

DEWAN OF MYSORE

TO

THE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

8th October 1908.

GENTLEMEN,

I AM happy to meet the representatives of the people once again in this session of the Dasara Representative Assembly, and, on behalf of His Highness the Maharaja and his Government, I accord to you a most hearty welcome.

2. In my addresses to the Assembly in 1906 and 1907, I described to you the different measures adopted by the Government for improving the efficiency of the administration, for effecting retrenchments in expenditure in certain directions, for placing the finances of the State on a secure footing and for ameliorating the condition of the people by the reduction of taxation, by the spread of education and by organizing a scheme for public sanitation. During the past year the same policy has been pursued, and I shall refer to the more important of the measures adopted during the year, in the course of my address.

RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE.

3. The Retrenchment Committee continued its labours during the year and dealt with the Prisons, Excise and Public Works Departments as well as with the menial establishments of certain offices. The reductions made till now during the past two years are expected to realize a saving of Rs. 1,48,000 a year. Besides these, considerable economies are in course of being effected in the Public Works Department, the largest spending department of the State.

INTEREST ON CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS.

4. Before proceeding to the subject of the State Finances, I shall refer to a matter in which, I feel no doubt, you are all keenly interested. You are aware that the Government of His Highness the late Maharaja, so far back

as 1892, had, with a view to encourage endowments for charitable objects, allowed monies to be deposited in the Government Savings Bank at a favourable rate of interest. As a consequence several charitably-inclined persons took advantage of the concession and many useful institutions were established. For certain reasons the concession was withdrawn in 1895. Representations were however being made from time to time, both in the Representative Assembly and elsewhere, for the re-introduction of the system. The subject engaged the careful consideration of Government in reviewing the financial condition of the State, and in February 1908 His Highness the Maharaja was pleased to approve of the rules of 1892 being again brought into operation with a slight modification. Under these rules permanent deposits of sums not less than three thousand or more than a lakh of rupees will be accepted on behalf of benevolent and charitable institutions of a kind which may be considered legitimate objects of public expenditure, and interest at 4 per cent will be paid on them to be utilized for the purpose of the endowments.

5. The following gentlemen have availed themselves of the new rules and made the deposits noted against their names :—

(1) Mr. Sowcar Gubbi Totadappa Dharmapravarta, for the maintenance of a choultry for travellers and other charities .... Rs. 70,100

(2) Mr. Sowcar Doddanna Chetty Janopakari, for the maintenance of a free school .... ,, 30,000

(3) The President of the Lingayet Fund, for educational purposes .... ,, 13,000

FINANCE.—Financial Results of 1907-08.

6. The year 1907-08 has been, financially, a prosperous one. Before announcing the results of the year, I should mention a change made in showing the Railway figures. During the last two years the Railway Revenue and Expenditure including the working charges were given in the accounts and the estimates, with a view to show the gross transactions. But this arrangement was considered unsatisfactory, as it tended to a misleading and unnecessary inflation of the figures, giving a false view of the State's total Revenue and Expenditure; and it was therefore decided to revert to the old system of showing the net traffic receipts, which alone represent the true earnings of the railways.

Surplus, 1907-08.

7. After excluding the working expenses of the railways, amounting to Rs. 18,32,000, from both the receipt and disbursement sides, the budget estimates for the year 1907-08 which I presented to you last year provided for a

total Revenue of Rs. 226,08,000 and a total Expenditure of Rs. 213,34,000, resulting in a surplus of Rs. 12,74,000, of which Rs. 10,34,000 represented the net income from the Cauvery Power Scheme, Rs. 2,00,000, the amount set apart every year on account of famine insurance and the balance of Rs. 40,000, the surplus in the ordinary account. These anticipations have been, I am glad to be able to say, more than realised, and the result according to the preliminary accounts shows a very satisfactory improvement over the budget estimate. The accounts for the year now provisionally made up, show that we realized a total revenue of Rs. 240,26,000. Out of this we met all the expenditure of the year, and were able to set aside a sum of Rs. 12,31,000, being the net revenue from the Cauvery Power Scheme, for replenishing the cash balance, the annual famine reserve of Rs. 2 lakhs and the usual sum of Rs. 1,33,000 for the sinking fund for liquidation of the loan of 20 lakhs raised in 1906-07. After setting aside these sums we were able to secure the handsome surplus of Rs. 13,82,000. This surplus was the net result of an improvement of revenue of 12·60 lakhs and a reduction in expenditure of 82,000 as compared with the estimate. Almost all the important revenue heads contributed to the improvement, of which 4·25 lakhs were under "Land Revenue," 2·25 lakhs under "Forest," 2·50 lakhs under "Excise," 1 lakh under "Interest on State investments" and 2 lakhs under "Railways."

Comparison with 1906-07.

8. Comparing the year under review with the previous year 1906-07, you will see from the statement before you that, while the total expenditure in both the years was practically the same, the total Revenue of the year 1907-08 exceeded that of the previous year by about 6½ lakhs. You will observe from a detailed comparison of the figures in the statement, that this increase has been realised in spite of the loss of 3½ lakhs entailed by the abolition of the Halat on Supari and of the falling off of over 3 lakhs under the Cauvery Power Scheme and Mining Revenues.

9. I shall now notice the chief differences in details disclosed by a comparison of the Revenue and Expenditure of the two years. First, as regards heads of Revenue that showed an increase—"Land Revenue" was better by nearly 3½ lakhs, chiefly as the result of the recovery of the arrears of previous years. The Revenue from "Forest" was also better by 3½ lakhs and this was due to the high price which sandalwood fetched and to the disposal of a larger quantity of timber in the Kadur District. The head "Excise" continues to maintain its progressive tendency and yielded 1¾ lakhs more than in the previous year.

The Revenue from "Stamps," which for some time was stationary, is regaining its normal growing character and was Rs. 40,000 more than in 1906-07. The interest on "State Investments" was better by 2½ lakhs, of which however nearly a lakh was on account of the arrears of the previous year. The balance of about 1½ lakhs was due to the investment of 12 lakhs in the Government of India Securities and to the higher rates of interest realized on the larger balances, kept in the Madras Bank. The Railway Revenue was also better by about three-quarters of a lakh owing to improved traffic on the Mysore-Harihar line.

10. Next, as regards the items that showed a decrease—noticeable decreases of revenue occurred under "Sayer Customs" (3½ lakhs) which has totally ceased by the abolition of the Halat on Supari, under "Mining" (64,000) owing to diminished output by some of the Mines on the Kolar Gold Fields and under Cauvery Power Scheme (2½ lakhs) due to the expiry of the period of high contract rates.

11. Turning now to the expenditure side, the largest increase, 5½ lakhs, was under "Education," which is accounted for by the payment during the year, of the entire building grant of 5 lakhs to the Indian Institute of Science and the cost of the Kindergarten and Manual training systems of instruction. The purchase of some new engines of improved type was the cause of the increase of 1¼ lakhs under Railway Capital Expenditure. Large capital outlay during the year on the third installation chiefly contributed to the rise in the interest charge under the revenue account of the Cauvery Power Scheme. Purchase of materials and type and the expansion of the pension list account respectively for the increases under "Stationery and Printing" (33,000) and "Superannuation Pensions and Gratuities" (88,000). The increase under "Gold Mining" represents the transfer to this head of certain items of expenditure on courts, hospitals and police maintained on the Kolar Gold Fields, and there are accordingly corresponding decreases under "Law and Justice," "Medical" and "Police." As regards the heads of expenditure under which there was a decrease, some of the outstanding charges on account of the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales were adjusted in 1906-07 under "Government Houses" and "Other items," and the absence of such special charges in 1907-08 chiefly accounts for the decreases under these two heads. The decrease under "Army" is attributable to the savings under some of the minor heads under the Military Department, while the large decrease of about 3½

lakhs under "Public Works Department" was mainly due to there being no extraordinary works involving heavy expenditure under this head during the year.

Government Surplus.

12. The year under review opened with a balance of Rs. 74,50,000 to the credit of Government and closed with a balance of Rs. 103,96,000, after the addition of the total surplus on the year's account of Rs. 29,46,000 (including the Famine Reserve, Rs. 2,00,000, and Sinking Fund, Rs. 1,33,000 already referred to.) If however the amount spent on the third installation of the Cauvery Power works during the year, *viz.*, Rs. 12,81,000 is treated as Government expenditure as it should be for ascertaining the financial position of the State, the real surplus of the year comes to Rs. 16,65,000 and the net Government surplus on the 30th June 1908 would stand at Rs. 91,15,000.

Budget for 1908-09.

13. The budget estimates for 1908-09 provide for a total revenue of Rs. 228,15,000 and a total expenditure of Rs. 227,99,000, leaving a small surplus of Rs. 16,000 in the ordinary account. The whole of the estimated net income (Rs. 10,31,000) from the Cauvery Power Scheme has again been left untouched in the budget programme of the year, which also provides a sum of 2 lakhs on account of the Famine Reserve. The total surplus on the estimates is therefore Rs. 12,47,000.

14. The Revenue estimates are all normal except that it has been considered necessary to estimate the income from "Mining Royalty and Leases" at a figure about 1¼ lakhs below the actuals for the last year. Under expenditure, the estimates provide not only for the ordinary requirements of all the departments but also for several useful and progressive measures, the chief among which are the following :—

Increase of pay to Village Schoolmasters, and the abolition of fees for Elementary Education;

Development and equipment of the Sanitary Department;

Development and equipment of the minor Scientific Departments; and

Provision for building the Chamarajendra Technical Institute.

GENERAL FINANCIAL POSITION.

15. At the beginning of 1905-06 the balance to the credit of Government was Rs. 43,49,000 and at the end of 1907-08 it was Rs. 91,15,000. In the three years therefore we have been able to save nearly 48 lakhs. With the anticipated saving of Rs. 12,47,000 on the current year's estimates, the total balance to the credit of Government will be nearly Rs. 104,00,000, which is only about 35 lakhs less than the surplus at the beginning of 1898-99, as you

will see from the appended statement of assets and liabilities which compares the position at the beginning of the three years 1898-99, 1905-06 and 1908-09. You will of course understand that in speaking of assets and liabilities I am only referring to the cash assets and liabilities of Government, the enormous capital which we have laid out in past years on Public Works, Railways, Irrigation works and the Cauvery Power Project being entirely excluded.

16. You may remember what I said in this connection in my address of the year before last. I said there that in the seven years from 1898-99 to 1904-05, the State's liabilities had considerably increased under "Savings Banks Deposits" and the "Insurance Fund" while simultaneously the cash and invested reserves had considerably decreased, and that the balance to the credit of Government which stood at Rs. 139,53,000 at the beginning of 1898-99 had dwindled down to Rs. 43,49,000 on the 1st July 1905, rendering the financial position rather weak. The reduction of the liabilities and the building up of the reserve were therefore measures of the most pressing necessity and importance if the finances were to be placed on a sound footing. I am glad to be able to say that as the result of the steps taken to impose annual and aggregate limits on individual savings banks deposits, the liability of Government in this respect has been sensibly reduced, while the substantial sum of 48 lakhs has been added to the Reserve Funds of the State. I should also mention another measure of the utmost importance about which a definite resolution has been arrived at and carried out from 1906-07. I refer to the maintenance of a reserve for meeting famine expenditure without dislocating the finances in the unfortunate event of the State being called upon to combat a famine. In a year of famine, while heavy expenditure will be necessary on relief measures, the revenue resources of Government will be crippled and, in the absence of a special provision for meeting the situation, Government would be forced to contract loans and to starve the administrative departments. The formation therefore of a separate reserve, which can be drawn upon in the event of a famine, is a matter of vital necessity and it has accordingly been decided since 1906-07 to secure every year a saving of Rs. 2 lakhs and to form a fund from these annual contributions. In pursuance of this policy we have now saved a sum of Rs. 4 lakhs and a saving of two lakhs has also been provided for in the budget programme of the current year. It is a matter for gratification that all the above measures for securing financial stability have been

carried out simultaneously with the undertaking of costly administrative reforms in several departments of the State. This satisfactory result is attributable to the elasticity of the important heads of revenue like the Land Revenue, Forest, Excise and Stamps and to the large income which the Cauvery Power Scheme and the Mining Royalty yield.

17. Of the reforms sanctioned during the last three years, I may mention the remission of the Halat on Supari which entailed an annual sacrifice of revenue of 3½ lakhs, the organization of the Public Health and the Veterinary Departments costing 1¼ lakhs, the improvement of the methods of teaching by the introduction of Kindergarten and Manual Training at a cost of half a lakh, the increase of the minimum pay of Schoolmasters to Rs. 10 involving an annual expenditure of Rs. 63,000, the making of elementary education free, and the improvement of the collegiate courses of study by the adaptation of our Colleges to the new Regulations of the Madras University and by the institution of new branches of study at a cost of about Rs. 3 lakhs, of which one lakh is recurring expenditure. Excepting the last, the other reforms have all been practically carried out.

18. Capital outlay on the third installation of the Cauvery Power Scheme during the year was Rs. 12,81,000 and the work is nearing completion.

Cash Balance.

19. The cash balance in Treasuries and Banks on the 30th June 1908 was Rs. 108,74,000, and of this Rs. 33 lakhs were invested in August last in Government of India Securities and other loans. The total amount at credit of the Surplus Investment Account on this date is Rs. 132 lakhs.

Life Insurance.

20. The State Life Insurance Fund is in a prosperous condition and has on its books 10,268 policies held by 5,402 persons, assuring a bonus of Rs. 54,65,000 for a monthly premium of Rs. 19,178. The closing balance of the fund on 30th June 1908 was Rs. 16,48,000.

21. We shall now turn to other branches of the administration.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

22. The Legislative Council has now been in existence for a little over a year and has met seven times in all during the period. Several important measures such as the Village Offices Bill, the Police Bill, the Newspapers Bill, and Bills to amend the Court Fees and Stamp Regulations and the Civil Procedure Code, formed the subject of discussion in the Council, and the Newspapers Regulation and Regulations to amend the Court Fees and Stamp Regulations, were passed into law. The Village Offices Bill has also been finally passed by

the Council at its last sitting and will be promulgated as law after the assent of His Highness the Maharaja is accorded thereto. The other bills are in an advanced state of progress, and I expect that they will be finally considered and passed at an early date. Other important measures such as the Village Tank Panchayet Bill, Treasure Trove Bill and Poisons Bill have been taken up and will engage the attention of the Council in the immediate future.

23. The Proceedings of the Council, published in the Gazette both in English and Kanarese from time to time, will have placed you in full possession of the details of these measures and I need not detain you by entering into them now at length. I shall only refer here to the three measures which have been finally passed as law. The Regulations to amend the Stamp and Court Fees Regulations have been framed with a view to remedy certain hardships caused by the previous law, which were brought to the notice of Government on several occasions by members of the Representative Assembly.

THE NEWSPAPERS REGUALTION.

24. The third Regulation that has been promulgated as law is the Mysore Newspapers Regulation. I find that this measure has not been received with approval by many of the newspapers in India. This was only to be expected, as newspapers outside Mysore cannot have a first-hand knowledge of the conditions prevailing in this State and can only discuss the question on abstract principles, as has actually happened. The papers published in the State, however, with the exception of the three papers which have chosen to stop publication, generally admit that a measure of the kind was necessary and do not think there is anything in the provisions of the Regulation to be alarmed about. As regards the present legislation it is not contended that the Regulation gives more powers to the Government than were already inherent in His Highness the Maharaja. But objection has been taken by our critics to the power to refuse permission and withdraw it when once granted being reserved to the Executive Government. This objection however assumes that the Government of His Highness the Maharaja will exercise the power arbitrarily on the least provocation, and that the Press will be exposed to the "petty tyranny of officials dressed in brief authority." Speaking on behalf of His Highness' Government, I have already assured the public that the Government would always be glad to have their acts criticised with as much freedom as the critics liked, provided only that the criticisms stopped short of disseminating absolute falsehoods and deliberate perversions of facts, likely to be prejudicial to the interests of the

State. The Government of His Highness have never shrunk from giving full publicity to their acts, and the opening of the Press room and the public discussion of questions in this very Assembly, than which there is not a body in the whole of India better representing the people of a State, will convince you that such is their attitude.

25. There is a misapprehension still prevailing even in the minds of otherwise well-informed persons that the refusal or withdrawal of permission under the Regulation may depend upon the whims and caprice of individual officers. In regard to this, I may assure you that such a fear is quite groundless and that all such cases will be treated as scheduled cases under the Rules of Business, which have to be considered by the full Council and submitted to His Highness the Maharaja for his orders. This is what has been done in the past and this will invariably be done in the future also.

26. Now, turning to the results of the Regulation, you will find that none of the evils which had been so freely predicted have followed its enactment. Barring the three papers that have chosen to stop publication,—I say three, because the two English bi-weeklies with their Vernacular counterparts can really be counted as one each—all the other newspapers, twelve in number, both Vernacular and English, and some with larger circulation than the papers which have ceased to exist, have applied for and obtained the permission necessary under the Regulation. The only paper that applied for and was refused permission was a Vernacular fortnightly. The reasons for the refusal in that case have been given in the Government Proceedings already published.

27. Government would have been glad, if it was possible to do so, to lay down rules for regulating their action under the Regulation; but I think you will admit that it is extremely difficult to bring under rules all the circumstances that would justify Government taking action under the Regulation. All that it is possible to say is that the Regulation will not be put into force in regard to any newspaper unless the character of the publication is such that its continuance is undesirable in the interests of the State or in the cause of public morality.

The Village Tank Panchayet Bill.

28. Of the new measures of legislation before the Council, I would invite your special attention to the Village Tank Panchayet Bill which contains the germs of a complete system of self-government in the rural tracts; but, for the successful working of the scheme even in its elementary form, much patience and self-sacrifice on the part of the raiyats and sympathy and devotion to duty on the part

of officials are required. We are in hopes that both will be forthcoming. I need not impress on you the greatness of the opportunity that is presented to you to work in the cause of the people and ensure the success of this first step towards real local self-government.

Other Laws.

29. Besides the laws passed by the Legislative Council, a Regulation to amend the Military Regulation has been passed by the Government under the powers reserved under the Legislative Council Regulation.

RULES UNDER REGULATIONS.

30. During the year Government also framed rules under the Railways Regulation, the Mines Regulation, the Co-operative Societies Regulation, the Methylated Spirits Regulation, the Excise Regulation, the Stamp Regulation, the Game and Fish Preservation Regulation, the Vaccination Regulation and the Legislative Council Regulation.

31. To only a few of these I need refer here. The rules under the Game and Fish Preservation Regulation extend protection to certain kinds of game till 1911. Also, in response to the representations made in the Assembly last year and in order to enable cultivating raiyats to better protect their crops from the ravages of animals, the game license fee has been reduced to Rs. 2 to owners and occupiers of land residing in the Malnad portion of the State, and they have also been allowed to pursue such animals in the adjacent State and District Forests.

Election of Members to the Legislative Council.

32. The rules framed under the Legislative Council Regulation throw open two seats on the Council to election by the Representative Assembly and thus meet a legitimate desire widely expressed since the Council was constituted.

SEASONAL CONDITIONS.

33. The average rainfall in the State during the year 1907-08 was about 39 inches as against 44 inches in the previous year, the average for the 37 years, 1870 to 1906, being nearly 37 inches. Though the rainfall during the year was thus above the average, it was not evenly distributed, the Districts of Hassan and Kadur getting much more than the average, while the other districts suffered to some extent from deficient rainfall. There was, almost everywhere in the State, a partial failure of the usual October rains. In parts of the Challakere Taluk in the Chitaldrug District, the agricultural outlook was such as to cause some anxiety towards the beginning of December last, and Government sanctioned the Deputy Commissioner's proposal to utilise a sum of Rs. 2,000 for execution of earthwork to minor tanks in the affected parts of the taluk to provide labour for the needy. Only one tank work was however actually started. Permission was also given to cultiyate with quick-growing crops the beds of 22 tanks in different parts of the district.

34. As a result of the ill-distributed and unseasonable rainfall, the outturn of crops during the year showed a perceptible decline as compared with the previous year; and the prices of food grains which were already high, rose slightly higher.

35. It was up to within the past few days a matter for concern that the seasonal prospects were not bright in certain parts of the State. The South-west monsoon had proved disappointing, particularly in the Kolar, Tumkur and Chitaldrug Districts. Though there is no great deficiency in the monthly average figures for the districts, the rainfall has not been timely or distributed evenly throughout the districts. In the Chitaldrug District the situation was assuming rather a serious aspect and the people were eagerly looking forward to the early advent of the North-east monsoon. Fodder was reported to be becoming scarce in these districts and the Deputy Commissioners had to grant permission for the free removal of date and kamara leaves from Government groves and State Forests for use as fodder. Rain was also badly wanted for the standing crops throughout the Bangalore and Kolar Districts and parts of other districts except Shimoga. But the rains we have recently had in almost all parts of the State have improved matters to a great extent. The situation is however being carefully watched.

Area under cultivation.

36. The area under cultivation has increased from 6,774,764 acres to 6,841,954 acres, showing a rise of 67,190 acres.

37. While on the subject of cultivation I may invite your attention to the orders passed by Government about encouraging Kumri cultivation in the Malnad under certain conditions as an experiment, for the temporary grant of portions of gomal land for gram cultivation, for the free grant of bamboos in the malnad for a period of two years to the raiyat population and for the reduction of the scale of minima for the subdivision of survey numbers.

AGRICULTURE.

38. During the year attention continued to be paid to measures calculated to improve agriculture and industry. The Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition held during last Dasara was very successful and the Exhibition this year also promises to be equally useful.

Cattle Shows.

39. A special feature of agricultural activity in the year was the number of cattle shows held in several parts of the State in connection with jatras or fairs on the occasion of religious festivals. Eight shows were held in all, and these were well attended and appreciated.

Agricultural Experiments.

40. Experiments were made in the cultivation of certain quick-growing varieties of paddy and the results

were encouraging. Endeavours are being made to bring these results to the notice of persons engaged in paddy cultivation.

41. Arrangements have been made to utilize the Government Gardens Department as a centre of economic botany and experimental work is being organized in certain directions by its Superintendent Mr. Krumbeigel, whose services were engaged in January last. During the year, 317 kinds of plants new to Bangalore have been cultivated. Several kinds of yams and 25 varieties of potatoes have been tried and of the latter twelve are expected to prove suitable to local conditions in the State and enable us to replace the present deteriorated and diseased varieties. Two new fibre plants have been introduced, one of which called Zapupe, received from the British Consul in Mexico, is said to be superior to Sisal hemp. The Manicoba rubber which is said to be a serious competitor to the Ceara rubber is also being tried.

42. The various plots in the Hebbal Experimental Farm have been standardized and experiments have been planned to show how the raiyat can materially improve the present methods of cultivation. The work connected with sugar-making has been continued. During the year several agricultural implements from Europe and America as well as a hand loom and some fodder cutters were obtained and their use demonstrated in various parts of the State. One of them, a thrashing machine has been much appreciated by raiyats and several private persons have applied for such machines being obtained for them. Much interest has been shown in improved agricultural implements and there is some demand for small improved ploughs.

Mycologist and Entomologist.

43. As you are aware the Government some years ago engaged the services of a scientist to study insect pests and fungoid diseases in the State. This gentleman, Dr. Coleman, took up his appointment in January last, and some preliminary experiments conducted by him to fight Koleroga appear to be full of promise. He is also investigating a potato disease which is causing considerable damage and which is said to be new to science.

Agricultural Chemist.

44. While on this subject, I must not omit to refer to the decision of the Government not to re-engage the services of Dr. Lehmann, the Agricultural Chemist, on the expiry of the second term of his employment in December 1908. In the order issued on the subject in April last, which was placed at the disposal of the Press at the time, the considerations on which Government arrived at this decision have been given and I do not propose to detail them now. It will suffice to say that Government, while

continuing to take as great an interest as ever in agricultural development, are disposed to think that in starting with a fully equipped chemical laboratory and an Agricultural Chemist they began at the wrong end, and that owing to the raiyats' comparative ignorance, apathy and absence of a spirit of co-operation, Government action at the present stage would be more usefully directed in attempting to secure tangible progress on simple and practical lines, in directions in which much work has to be done before the highly specialized labours of an Agricultural Chemist can be turned to practical advantage by the cultivating classes. The revised scheme for agricultural improvement will soon be published.

SERICULTURE.

45. Government have devoted attention to measures for the improvement of the silk industry, but owing to various reasons it has not been found practicable to devise a suitable scheme. The question of utilizing Mr. Tata's Farm for giving sericultural instruction to those engaged in silk worm rearing, is under the consideration of Government, and in the meanwhile Government have arranged for Mr. Odzu, the Superintendent of Mr. Tata's Farm, visiting centres of silk industry under instructions from the Revenue Commissioner and giving advice on the selection of seed and the rearing of worms.

The Revenue and Agricultural Gazette.

46. The Revenue and Agricultural Gazette, to which I referred in my address of 1906, is being published from November 1906 and has proved very useful as a medium for the communication of valuable information on agricultural and other matters to the raiyat population. It has now a circulation of 661 copies, exclusive of 550 copies sent free to Government officials and others. Besides articles in the journal, 11 supplements dealing with matters of varied agricultural interest have been issued. The anticipations of Government in starting the Journal have been fully realised, and Government have sanctioned its continuance for a further period of three years.

AGRICULTURAL BANKS.

47. During the year 11 Agricultural Banks were ordered to be wound up, and the total number of banks was thus reduced from 36 to 25. Of the banks in existence only three have done any business, the others being in the same condition as in the past. It is, however, satisfactory to note that owing to the greater interest taken by Deputy Commissioners, the Inspector of Agricultural Banks and the Revenue Commissioner, the collection of the Government loans has amounted to Rs. 1,33,000 during the past year, an amount more than double the previous year's collection. It is also gratifying to find that this result has been in

the majority of cases attained without resort to the extreme measure of selling up the properties of members.

48. As regards the late Coffee Banks at Saklespur and Chikmagalur, which are the heaviest debtors of Government, the system of granting advances for working expenses has been found to lead to no useful results, and many of the estates have been gradually deteriorating in spite of these advances. Government have therefore decided in their orders issued in January last to discontinue the system and to realize their dues as early as possible without causing any avoidable loss to the Government or to the owners of the estates concerned.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

49. Co-operative Societies have made fair progress during the year. Their number has increased from 15 to 27, 8 of them being Agricultural Societies. I am given to understand that difficulty is felt everywhere in securing as managing members, proper persons possessing the requisite qualifications, and I appeal to you, gentlemen, who represent the intelligence and the influence of the country, to supply this want as far as lies in your power, for here is a field of activity which offers considerable scope for disinterested, if quiet, public work fraught with possibilities of much real benefit to the country.

50. The number of members of Co-operative Societies has risen from 1,191 to 2,451, and the share capital from Rs. 24,893 to Rs. 56,621. Government have framed rules for the grant of small loans to these societies to help them in their initial stage, and for this purpose a sum of Rs. 15,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Registrar. A loan of Rs. 2,000 was sanctioned under these rules to the Zahir-ul-Islam Weaving Co-operative Society of Molakalmuru.

CIVIL VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

51. In my address to you last year I touched upon the formation of a Civil Veterinary Department. Though orders were passed early in the year it was some time before the necessary staff of qualified men could be got together, and it was only in January 1908 that a Veterinary Hospital was started in Bangalore and it was not before May 1908 that hospitals and dispensaries were opened at Mysore, Chikmagalur, Kolar and Hassan. Though these institutions were started so late in the year, 1,213 animals of all kinds were treated in them. Various epidemics such as anthrax, blackquarter, septicæmia hæmorrhagica, foot and mouth disease and sheep-pox had broken out during the year in a sporadic form throughout the State and the Veterinary Inspector and his assistants were able to render some help to the

people. Rinderpest, which had disappeared from the State for years, appeared in an epidemic form in the Shimoga and Kolar Districts and in parts of Kadur and Hassan. The method of preventive treatment by inoculation was adopted in many centres. The raiyats were so impressed with the efficacy of this treatment that there is now a general demand from many parts of the country for the services of the inoculator. As many as 4,855 cattle were in all inoculated. Sera and vaccines for other contagious diseases have also been indented for and kept ready for emergencies. The results achieved so far are on the whole very encouraging and lead us to hope that the department will be of great benefit to the people. The further expansion of the department is not so much a question of funds, as of the availability of men with the necessary training and qualifications.

The Shekdari or Revenue Inspectors' School.

52. The Shekdari School has continued to do good work and 79 students underwent training during the year 1907-08 and 40 more are under training at present. It is hoped that in the course of a few years the Shekdari service will wholly be filled by fully qualified men.

REVENUE SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT

53. During the year original revenue survey was carried out in 13 Inam villages, and re-survey operations embraced the Magadi and Nelamangala Taluks and parts of the Shimoga, Belur, Chiknayakanhalli and the late Banavar Taluks. Re-classification of water-supply to wet and garden lands was made in the Shimoga and Honnali Taluks.

54. With the announcement of the rates in the Sringeri Jahgir, the original settlement of the whole State has been completed, and during the year, revision settlement was introduced into the Sagar and Sorab Taluks. In my address to you last year I went into the details of these settlements and I need only add that the rates have been exceedingly well received by the raiyats. I shall be glad to learn from the Representative Members from these taluks as well as from the other representatives from the Malnad Districts how far the liberal policy adopted with regard to the assessment of supari gardens and the abolition of the Halat have conduced or are expected to conduce to the prosperity of the Malnad raiyats.

55. During the year revised rates have been sanctioned for the Shikarpur Taluk and a moderate increase of revenue, *viz.*, 8·4 per cent is expected.

56. Proposals for the revision settlement of the Pavagada, Sira and Tumkur Taluks are expected from the Survey Superintendent and will soon engage the attention of Government.

FORESTS.

57. Twelve blocks with an area of 105½ square miles were constituted into State Forests and 127 square miles were notified as reserved lands. The collection of sandal-wood was confined purely to dead trees and 2,518 tons were sold and Rs. 14,18,000 realized during the year. The net revenue from the department was Rs. 16,35,000 against Rs. 12,74,000 in the previous year and was about double of what it was eight years ago.

58. In this connection, I must refer to various state-ments circulated from time to time in the newspapers to the effect that our forests are being recklessly denuded to swell present revenue. Let me assure you, gentlemen, that these statements are quite unfounded and that the exploitation of our forest resources is being carried on in a scientific manner having due regard to the permanent interests of the country and the needs of the future.

59. The scheme to which I referred last year for enlisting the co-operation of the raiyats in the preservation and growth of sandal trees by giving them a bonus on the trees removed from their holdings and by affording them facilities for the removal of trees which are obstructive to cultivation has been further considered and I am now in a position to say that an early decision in the matter may be expected.

JUDICIAL.

60. In my address to you last year I referred to an experiment in the way of separation of Judicial and Executive functions made in certain parts of the State, where the Amildars were divested of Magisterial func-tions and such functions assigned to Civil Judges and City Magistrates. The experiment has worked well so far as it has gone, but any further extension of its scope appears likely to entail additional expenditure and has on that account to be deferred for the present.

STAMPS.

61. The revenue from stamps which was declining from 1900-01 has shown some appreciable increase in the last year, rising from Rs. 7,58,000 in 1906-07 to 7,98,000 as compared with Rs. 7,95,000 in 1900-01. Arrangements have been made to replace by a better kind of paper the present three-pie paper about the quality of which there have been numerous complaints both in and out of the Assembly.

POLICE.

62. It is satisfactory to note that there has been a decrease in reported crime as compared with 1906-07 and that the percentage of convictions to cases decided has been higher. Two cases that occurred during the year were of more than usual interest and I shall refer to them briefly. The first was the serious riot that occurred in the Kolar Gold Fields from the 25th to

28th December 1907 owing to certain disputes between the mine coolies and the Punjabi watchmen. At one stage the disturbance assumed a very serious aspect and the rioters had to be dispersed by armed force. I am, however, glad to say that the responsible local authorities kept their heads cool, and by forbearance and tact were able to quell the riot without any loss of life or damage to property. The chief offenders on both sides were tried and convicted in due course.

63. The other case is the series of atrocious murders committed in the City and Civil and Military Station of Bangalore during the past two years and more by a gang of young men with the aid of poison and the knife. The young men had received some education in English and belonged to respectable families. The crimes were very cleverly planned and the disposal of the bodies and of the gold ornaments, which were the chief object of the murders, showed a considerable amount of misdirected ingenuity. As you are all aware the crimes came to light in a somewhat unexpected manner and the criminals have met their well-merited fate. The circumstances of this case indicate the absence of good home influences even in apparently respectable families and illustrate the evils of a partial and inadequate system of education in which there is no place for moral and religious training.

64. A departmental enquiry was held into the conduct of the police officers of the State connected with the investigation of the case in the City, and I am glad to say that these officers have been found to have acted in a uniformly upright and unexceptionable manner.

65. The investigation centre scheme to which I alluded in my address last year has recently been extended to the whole of the State and it is expected that it will result in the efficient disposal of Police work.

66. To deal with organized crime and with criminals whose range of operations extends, in these days of rapid means of communication, to great distances and wide areas irrespective of local territorial boundaries, a suitably manned criminal intelligence department is found to be very necessary, and the subject is engaging the attention of Government.

PUBLIC WORKS.

67. The total expenditure incurred on Public Works during the year 1907-08 amounted to Rs. 53,58,000, of which Rs. 10,55,000 was on "Irrigation Works;" Rs. 26,65,000 on "Civil Works;" Rs. 26,000 on "Military Works;" and Rs. 16,12,000 on the "Cauvery Power Scheme Works."

Irrigation Works.

68. The progress on the Marikanave Project was satisfactory, the outlay on the work during the year being

Rs. 1,42,357. The main dam has been completed and only a few subsidiary works remain to be executed. The right bank channel was practically completed up to the 18th mile and the earthwork from the 20th to 25th miles was nearly finished. Water was let down up to the 18th mile. The left bank channel was completed with all masonry works up to the 22nd mile, and water was let down to the 21st mile. The total outlay on the work up to the 1st July last was Rs. 33,42,723.

Minor Tanks.

69. A sum of Rs. 77,000 was spent by the Revenue Department on minor tanks and a sum of Rs. 13,000 was advanced to raiyats for carrying out their share of earthwork. Three hundred and eighty-five tanks were dealt with and 165 of these completely repaired during the year. The operations were on the whole satisfactory, and especially so in the Kolar District where 144 tanks were taken up for repairs and 56 of them completely restored during the year.

The Cauvery Reservoir.

70. The preliminary investigations in connection with the construction of a large reservoir across the Cauvery River near Belagola were completed and a project therefor has been prepared and is under the consideration of Government. I may say that while the project appears to be practicable and may be remunerative in course of time, the large outlay involved raises several difficult questions as to financing the scheme, and the Government may have, with due regard to all the aspects of the subject, to defer the further consideration of the project to a more favorable opportunity.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

71. Among the works of public improvement in progress during the year were the laying out and forming of roads in the Basavangudi and Malleswaram Extensions of the Bangalore City, the laying out of a new extension between Chamarajendrapet and Basavangudi, the drainage of the Chamarajendrapet and Basavangudi Extensions, the widening of the main drain in the Bangalore City, improvements to the water-supply works at Bangalore and Kolar Gold Fields and water-supply to the town of Harihar.

CAUVERY POWER WORKS.

72. The total expenditure on the Cauvery Power Scheme was Rs. 16,12,145, of which a sum of Rs. 12,80,831 was spent on the Third Installation; Rs. 75,528 on the Bangalore Lighting and Power Supply Scheme and Rs. 2,55,786 on working expenses and maintenance of the 1st and 2nd Installations. The gross revenue realized during the year was Rs. 17,58,346. Deducting the working expenses, the net revenue was Rs. 15,02,560 which was Rs. 2,23,000 more than the Budget estimate. Works for

the sanitation of the settlement at Sivasamudram Bluff were completed during the year at an outlay of Rs. 24,819. Electric lighting to the Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, was formally inaugurated on 1st January 1908, and Mysore has been lighted by electricity from the 26th September 1908.

RAILWAYS.

73. The total net earnings of the open lines of Railway owned by the State amounted to Rs. 11,37,000 as against Rs. 10,73,873 in 1906-07, and was 4·71 per cent of the capital outlay as against 4·53 in 1906-07. The percentage of working expenses to gross earnings was 62·96 as against 60·11 in 1906-07.

74. The scheme for a light railway from Bangalore to Chikballapur has been dropped for the present as the estimate of capital cost first prepared was found to be too low, and the company which promoted the scheme has sought the permission of the Government to construct a Steam Tramway instead. It is understood that plans and estimates are under preparation.

75. The Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company have undertaken to make a reconnaissance survey of the Mysore-Hassan line.

GEOLOGICAL.

76. Mining and prospecting work was carried on actively in many parts of the State and 204 licenses, including renewals, were granted as against 247 in 1906-07. The fall in the price of Manganese has however considerably damped the previous enthusiasm for exploiting minerals.

Gold.

77. In my address last year I referred to the large diminution in the output of gold in 1906-07 as compared with 1905-06. It is to be regretted that the falling off continued during 1907-08 also, and the value of gold extracted in 1907-08 was £ 2,045,108 as against £ 2,068,970 in 1906-07 and £ 2,274,786 in 1905-06.

78. The Mysore, Ooregum and Nundydroog Mines have appreciably increased their output during the year, while the production of Champion Reefs has largely fallen off. I am however glad to say that taken as a whole the present position of these four mines, which are the chief gold producers of the State, may be regarded as satisfactory and that there appears to be no reason to apprehend for many years to come that the mines are approaching exhaustion.

79. As regards the smaller mines, the Balaghat mine has reduced its output considerably and the Tank Block and Coromandel have both closed down. The Woolagiri Mine near Nanjangud which produced some gold last year has suspended work, and the Indian Mines Syndicate has practically abandoned work in the Tumkur and Chitaldrug Districts. The Shimoga Gold Fields, Limited, have not

yet struck paying ore though encouraging prospects have been met with at several points.

Manganese.

80. During the year the price of manganese fell by nearly 50 per cent and the rush for manganese lands has largely abated. Many licenses have been allowed to lapse and only the new Mysore Manganese Company has carried on operations on any large scale. The story of the industry during the past two years shows how, though the actual extraction of the ore from the shallow depths at which it is found is a simple enough matter, still, experience and skill in mining and ample capital resources are necessary for successful results being achieved. It is possible that without much actual working certain licensees were able to sell their blocks to others for somewhat fancy prices but speculative transactions such as these cannot be regarded as satisfactory from an industrial and economic aspect or from the point of view of the permanent interests of the country.

81. The following statement shows the quantity of ore extracted and sold and the royalty paid in 1907-08 as compared with 1906-07 :—

Year	Tons extracted	Tons sold	Royalty
1906-07	63,181	50,247	Rs. 20,209
1907-08	74,650	70,242	,, 25,822

Chrome.

82. Chrome ore has also fallen in value and this has proved a bar to active progress in the industry. During the year 1,566 tons of ore have been sold out of 10,592 tons extracted and a royalty of Rs. 628 has been realized.

Iron Ores.

83. The abundance of very high-class iron ores has long been a tradition in Mysore and representations have from time to time been made in the Assembly that Government should take the industry in hand and start iron works on a large scale. Investigations are being carried out in the Geological Department in regard to the supplies of iron ore available, but it will be some time before it will be possible to furnish any trustworthy results. In many cases the results so far obtained have been disappointing though it is expected that some large and valuable deposits will yet be disclosed. During the year Dr. Smeeth was deputed to Turin to witness some trials proposed to be made by an Italian Scientist in the smelting of iron ores with the electric furnace, but owing to a break down in the arrangements the proposed trials could not be made. Dr. Smeeth was however enabled to make some experiments in the smelting of iron ore and in the production of steel and his report is under preparation. It is understood that Dr. Smeeth's conclusions point to the feasibility of the development of an iron and steel industry in Mysore in the future.

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For the present, however, the production of pig iron and the cheaper forms of structural steel cannot be recommended, and work will have to be confined to the production of the higher priced classes of steel and ferro-alloys on a moderate scale.

EXCISE.

84. In my address last year I referred to certain administrative changes made in the Excise Department on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee during the early part of the year 1907-08, and I shall not reiterate them now. As you are aware, the direct taxes on toddy, ganja and opium realized in the shape of tree-tax and duty were increased, and there was some doubt as to how the changes in the rates would affect the revenue. The revenue returns, however, show that the direct taxation and the shop rental have adjusted themselves to the new conditions without any dislocation of the total revenue. As I have already told you, there was a total increase of a lakh and three-fourths under Excise Revenue; this was due almost entirely to the increased consumption of arrack in all parts of the State and chiefly in the Shimoga District, where the Manganese industry attracted a large number of labourers. Government cannot look upon this result with satisfaction. They have always kept in view the principle of the maximum of revenue with the minimum of consumption. Government have, however, found that the present rates of taxation of indigenous liquors are as high as they can be, and that any further enhancement will lead not to any actual restriction of consumption, but to the substitution, for the comparatively wholesome arrack and toddy, of the relatively more noxious brands of cheap imported liquor.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

85. The birth-rate was 14·98 per mille of population against 16·22 in 1906-07 and the death-rate 18·82 as against 20·88. The mortality under fevers was smaller than in the previous year as also that under cholera and small-pox. But unfortunately plague was very much more severe, the figures being 20,206 attacks and 14,750 deaths as against 5,983 and 4,287 in 1906-07. The district of Bangalore suffered the most and the Chitaldrug District the least, the former reporting 5,479 attacks with 4,080 deaths and the latter 202 attacks with 168 deaths.

86. In addition to the usual preventive measures of evacuation and disinfection, inoculation and rat destruction were largely resorted to during the year. The number of inoculations effected was 3,167. Rat destruction was carried on on a large scale in the Bangalore and Mysore Cities. As recent scientific researches show that the rat and its attendant flea are the media of communication of

the plague to man it is believed that a wholesale destruction of rats in a place liable to infection or already infected is likely to prevent an epidemic or at least mitigate its severity.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

87. In my address last year I described in some detail the organization of the department of Public Health which was started early in 1907-08. The department has not been fully organized owing to financial considerations and the paucity of specially trained hands. The three Cities of Bangalore, Mysore and Kolar Gold Fields have each been provided with a qualified Medical Officer of Health, and a Divisional Sanitary Officer has been appointed for the Western Circle comprising the Shimoga, Kadur and Chitaldrug Districts. One medical graduate was sent to England to undergo a sanitary training and one to Madras. Five Deputy Inspectors of Vaccination were also deputed to Madras to be trained in sanitation.

88. Considerable difficulty has been felt in securing properly trained persons for employment as Sanitary and Assistant Sanitary Inspectors and to meet this want, it is proposed to start a training school for this agency. In this school instruction in sanitary matters will also be given to shekdars and schoolmasters.

89. As you are aware a Health Exhibition is held during the Dasara, and by this means as well as by means of lectures and distribution of leaflets in the vernacular, attempts are being made to diffuse a knowledge of sanitary matters among the people.

90. Apart from the sanitary works executed in the Mysore and Bangalore Cities, the water-supply of Harihar and the Kolar Gold Fields and the drainage of Robertsonpet were undertaken during the past year. In the present year it is proposed to take up the following works, *viz.*, extension of Hiriyur town, water-supply to Ganjam, Seringapatam, Shimoga and drainage and extension of Shimoga.

91. The reorganization of the Vaccination Department ordered in connection with the Health Scheme has not been brought into effect for want of specially qualified vaccinators. These are proposed to be trained in the Sanitary School.

92. What is called the Kurnool system of Vaccination was introduced in the rural areas in every district, and in urban areas vaccination was entrusted to medical subordinates. Vaccination was made compulsory in the Bangalore and Mysore Cities and on the Kolar Gold Fields.

Medical Aid.

93. During the year, the staff of the Victoria Hospital was strengthened by the addition of one more Surgeon of

high qualifications who is also a specialist in ear, throat and nose diseases. Government have under contemplation the erection of a suitable eye-hospital in close proximity to the Victoria Hospital, so as to make adequate provision for the large number of patients now seeking relief in Bangalore from all parts of Mysore and from outside its limits, for whose treatment the existing arrangements are found to be insufficient.

Indigenous Medicine.

94. While every thing possible is being done to extend medical aid to the people on lines approved by western science, and in fact the cost under "Medical" alone has more than doubled itself within the past 12 years, Government feel that they have a duty to discharge in regard to the indigenous systems of medicine. India was once famous for its medicine and surgery and the art was taken up and cultivated by the Arabs. Like other branches of Eastern knowledge, medicine according to the Ayurvedic and Yunani systems has latterly fallen into disfavour mainly owing to want of encouragement. It was felt that the revival of this ancient system of medicine which had merits of its own fell within the sphere of the activities of a leading Native State like Mysore, and Government have accordingly passed a scheme for instruction in the Ayurvedic science and practice being imparted by duly qualified professors. Arrangements have also been made for the teaching of modern anatomy and physiology in the new School.

DISTRICT FUNDS.

95. The income under all heads of District Funds amounted to Rs. 11,06,141 including the opening balances. The total expenditure was Rs. 7,67,468, namely, Rs. 5,52,007 on Public Works, Rs. 48,835 on Sanitation, Rs. 73,116 on Medical Aid and the remainder on Miscellaneous items.

96. At the end of 1906-07 there were 47 Unions in existence and 247 Unions were formed during the year. One Union, *viz.*, that at Siddapur in the Molakalmuru Taluk, was abolished on the representation of the villagers and on the recommendation of the District Board. To supplement the resources of the Unions the surplus sale proceeds of cattle-pounds were directed to be assigned to them with effect from the 1st July 1908.

97. With a view to improve the sanitation of villages, the Village Sanitation Rules were ordered to be introduced into all villages containing 25 houses and upwards.

MUNICIPALITIES.

98. There were 88 Municipalities during the year as in the last year. In the case of 15 non-Regulation Municipal towns, preliminary action under Section 8 of the Municipal Regulation of 1906 was taken to bring them under the Regulation.

99. As I have already mentioned a new extension was laid out during the year between the Chamarajendrapet and the Basavangudi extensions of Bangalore. An extension called " Ramachandrapet " was formed in the Chintamani town. Action was taken by the Kolar Town Municipal Board for forming an extension of that town.

100. An estimate amounting to Rs. 50,000 was sanctioned out of the Mysore City Municipal fund for the electrification of the Belagola Water Works. Of the amount required for this project a moiety will be treated as a loan to the Mysore City Municipal Council, repayable in five equal annual instalments with interest at 4 per cent per annum.

101. The income of all the Municipalities, including the opening balance, amounted to Rs. 13,44,422. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 8,72,401, of which the expenditure on Conservancy and Public Works amounted to Rs. 1,90,749 and Rs. 3,02,303, respectively.

THE MYSORE CITY IMPROVEMENTS.

102. A material change was effected during the year in the constitution of the Board of Trustees for the Improvement of the City of Mysore. This Board had since the date of its constitution a full-time Chairman presiding over it; but, with a view to promote co-ordination of action and to enlist the sympathy of the Mysore City Municipal Council in the operations of the Board and to economise expenditure on establishments as far as possible, the appointment of a full-time Chairman was abolished, and the Deputy Commissioner of the Mysore District, who is also the President of the Mysore City Municipal Council, was, as a tentative measure, appointed Chairman, *ex-officio*. Certain other changes in the office establishments were also made. The revision has resulted in a saving of Rs. 20,000. Steps are being-taken to place on the Board the Health Officer of the Mysore City Municipality and the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner. It has also been decided that all new works undertaken by the Trust Board should receive the professional scrutiny of the Chief Engineer in respect of their engineering features, all administrative operations being left entirely under the control of the Trust Board.

103. The annual grant for the Mysore City Improvement is, with effect from the current official year 1908-09, fixed at three lakhs of rupees inclusive of the opening balance in favour of the Board and its income derived from properties.

104. In addition to the estimate for Rs. 1,89,000 sanctioned last year, another estimate for Rs. 2,79,585 was sanctioned during the year for acquisition and demolition

of houses in No. III drainage area. The amount available for expenditure during the year by the Board was Rs. 3,48,124, of which the expenditure on improvement works amounted to Rs. 2,58,361.

105. The Board has now under its consideration (1) the question of proper house-connections with street drains and (2) improved methods of building construction in the city and its extensions.

GOVERNMENT PRESS.

106. The machinery, type and appliances of the Government Press have been greatly improved and, under the management of its capable Superintendent, work is now being done in an efficient manner. It is satisfactory to learn that certain employees of the Press appeared for and passed the Madras Government Technical Examinations in printing. It is proposed to select some educated young men as Press Probationers and train them in all branches of printing work.

MUZRAI.

107. During the year 160 Muzrai Institutions were repaired at a cost of Rs. 50,000, of which Rs. 34,000 came from the surplus funds of the institutions concerned and a sum of Rs. 15,000 was contributed by the State. Annual tasdiks amounting to Rs. 5,000 a year were newly sanctioned, the bulk of which—Rs. 4,200 a year—was for the conduct of daily worship and other charities at the Brindavan constructed in Calcutta in memory of His Highness the late Maharaja Chamarajendra Wadayar Bahadur, G.C.S.I. Dharmadarsis were appointed to supervise the affairs of 28 institutions, and the lands of the Majjigehalli Matt of Mulbagal were taken over under Government management at the request of the Swami.

108. Recently steps have been taken to amalgamate the Muzrai Secretariat with the General and Revenue Secretariat and to appoint a Muzrai Superintendent who will be able to tour about freely inspecting Muzrai Institutions, while at the same time somewhat larger powers and more responsibility have been delegated to the Deputy Commissioners.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

109. The Sravana Belgola volume of the Epigraphia Carnatica is being revised and a general summary dealing with all the volumes and presenting the results in an easily accessible form has been prepared by Mr. Rice and will be published shortly. A general index, so necessary for the proper use of the volumes hitherto published, is also under preparation.

110. During the year 1907-08, Mr. R. Narasimha Char, now in charge of the Archæological Department, has been able to bring 210 new inscriptions to light and also some interesting copper plates.

111. Among the manuscripts that have been obtained are a work on rhetoric by Sayana, the well-known Vedic commentator, and a commentary on the *Aptamimamsa* by a celebrated Jain scholar of the 8th century, A.D.

112. Arrangements have been made to start excavation work in some ancient sites near Chitaldrug and elsewhere, and it is hoped that valuable results will be obtained.

EDUCATION.

113. I now turn to the Education Department, the administration of which engaged a large share of the attention of Government during the year.

114. It is satisfactory to note that there was a considerable increase in the number and strength of schools during the year. The total number of public and private schools was 4,146 and the total attendance 1,23,106, the highest figures recorded in the history of the Education Department in Mysore. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 3,964 and 1,17,951, respectively. The percentage of children of school-going age who attended the schools was 15·06 as against 14·43 in the previous year.

Abolition of Fees.

115. Several changes of an important and far-reaching character have been introduced in the Department during the year 1907-08 and since the beginning of the current year. As I told you last year the levy of school fees was abolished in the lower and upper primary classes of Village Elementary Schools from October 1907, and since then fees in the lower secondary classes of such schools and in the vernacular classes of Anglo-Vernacular Schools have been abolished, so that elementary education in all Government Schools is now entirely free. We are in hopes that the measure will bring the rudiments of education within the reach of the poorest classes in rural parts. The teaching of English has also been made compulsory in all Anglo-Vernacular Schools from class III upwards.

Increase of pay to Village School Masters.

116. I shall now pass on to another measure calculated to increase the efficiency of elementary education by affording teachers a living wage which in many instances they have not hitherto had. As you are aware, the pay of all village schoolmasters receiving less than ten rupees a month was raised by one rupee with effect from October 1907, and I am glad to say that it has been found possible to give full effect to the intentions of Government by raising the pay of all schoolmasters to Rs. 10 per month with effect from 1st July 1908.

Reorganization of Colleges.

117. In connection with Higher Education, the two first grade Colleges in the State are being reorganized to meet the requirements of the new Regulations of the Madras University. It is proposed to concentrate science

teaching in the Central College, Bangalore, and to confine the teaching in the Maharaja's College, Mysore, to the literary subjects. It is expected that this will tend to greater efficiency and avoid an unnecessary reduplication of courses such as now exists. It is hoped that in the near future it may be possible to teach all the science courses of the B. A. Degree Examination in the Central College, Bangalore, and all the literary subjects in the Maharaja's College, Mysore. Steps are being taken to erect the necessary laboratory and other buildings in Bangalore.

The Indian Institute of Science.

118. It is also a matter for gratification that the erection of buildings for the Indian Institute of Science founded by the late Mr. Tata, has been commenced on a suitable plot of ground near Bangalore granted by the State. As you may be aware the State has made a liberal building grant of five lakhs and also gives an annual grant of Rs. 50,000 to the Institute. As I have already informed you when dealing with the finances of the State, it was found possible to pay the whole of the building grant during the past year and the payment of the annual grant will come into operation during the current year along with similar grants by the Government of India and other bodies.

Kindergarten and Manual Training.

119. In my address to you last year I referred to the action taken in the first months of 1907-08 in regard to the introduction of kindergarten and manual training in the State. As many of you may be aware, the services of Dr. Gustaf Larsson, Principal of the Sloyd Training School, Boston, U. S. A., and of Miss Latter, a distinguished kindergarten specialist who had long been connected with the London School Board, were secured for a period of some months to organise the teaching in these subjects and to train teachers. Dr. Larsson was engaged on this duty from September 1907 to April 1908, and 22 teachers of High Schools were trained in the system. Dr. Larsson formed a very favourable opinion of the men deputed to undergo the training and found them to be most apt and willing pupils. He has left it on record that they made progress far beyond his expectations based on experience of similar teachers in America.

120. Miss Latter worked for some time in the Government Girls' Schools, Bangalore, and reformed and reorganised kindergarten teaching in the lower primary classes on the latest principles, paying special attention to nature study. She also delivered a course of lectures on the principles of kindergarten which were attended by about 50 teachers. During the short time she was in Bangalore she endeared herself to the little children in her charge, and her most unexpected and unfortunate death in November

last was extremely regretted by everybody who knew her and her work. Her work has, however, been continued by Miss Williams and Miss Hart and a large number of teachers are being trained in the system.

121. As regards the future development of these courses of training, arrangements have already been made to open nine Sloyd centres in connection with the Government High Schools, in which boys of these schools as well as boys of other schools in the neighbourhood, of Forms II to IV, will be trained. Cardboard work will be introduced into the first three Anglo-Vernacular classes below Form II in a large number of Anglo-Vernacular Schools and Kindergarten handwork in the lowest classes.

Educational Exhibition.

122. In this connection I must refer to the Educational Exhibition held during the Dasara of 1907 when a large number of the most interesting exhibits from schools in London were on view.

Technical Education.

123. Technical and Industrial Education has been making substantial progress, and the various schools, especially the school in Mysore, did excellent work. Sanction has been accorded for opening a new school in Sagar. The work of acquiring land for the Chamarajendra Technical Institute was proceeded with last year and the erection of the necessary buidings will be taken up this year.

124. The rules for the Damodar Doss Scholarships were revised so as to secure persons of high education and intelligence as candidates for the scholarships as it was found that the former rules did not ensure this result.

125. Female education continued to make satisfactory progress. It has been felt that more progress could be made if a larger number of female teachers were employed in schools, and Government are taking steps to gradually replace male by female teachers in Girls' Schools.

Compulsory Education.

126. Government have also under consideration the question of making education compulsory in a few selected places as an experimental measure, and Mr. Bhabha will soon be deputed to study the working of the system in Baroda.

Moral and Religious Instruction.

127. You will be glad to hear that His Highness the Maharaja has been pleased to accord his sanction to a scheme for imparting moral and religious instruction in all the Government Schools in the State, which will be brought into operation from the 1st November next.

THE UNREST IN INDIA.

128. When there is so much talked about regarding unrest in India, I cannot close this address without making some reference to it. I shall not attempt to enter into its causes; but that there is unrest in the country must be acknowledged by all. Its birth may be said to be

almost coeval with the introduction of English education into India. Political aspirations based on the lessons of English history and English thought, however vague they may have been in the beginning, have taken root in India among the English-educated classes, and signs are not wanting that such ideas are penetrating, in some shape or other, surely if slowly, the non-English-knowing population also. It may be that these ideas of liberty and popular government thus transplanted from England are somewhat alien to Indian soil, and that they require time if they are to be fully acclimatised to conditions in this country. But every one cannot but recognize that these aspirations have come to stay and must spread, and it is a duty both of the Government and of the leaders of the people to take count of the new forces and see that they are directed in right channels.

129. At the risk of repeating a sentiment that has been often expressed for some time past, but which is none the less true or apposite, I would say that the key to the whole difficult situation appears to be sympathy. I am not one of those who repeat the parrot cry which charges the rulers with want of sympathy. Sympathy is necessary not alone in the rulers with the ruled in their shortcomings and defects, their hopes and their aspirations, but also in the ruled with the rulers in their necessarily defective knowledge of the Indian mind and character, in the practical difficulties they have to face in carrying out new policies, and in their high responsibility for the preservation of external security, for the maintenance of law and order, and for the evolution of progress among a heterogeneous population. It is therefore a matter for profound regret that some misguided men should have overstepped all limitations of law and order, and even humanity, and sought the help of terrible anarchist weapons with the vain view to intimidate the Government. The great mass of the people, however, who enjoy the inestimable benefits of peace, order and justice under the ægis of the British Power, are perfectly loyal to the British throne, and they and all right-thinking men have no sympathy whatever with anarchist methods or with ideas inconsistent with the continuance of India as an integral part of the British Empire.

130. As regards Mysore, situated as we are, surrounded by British territory on all sides, and considering we have been equally long under the influences which have given rise to aspirations of nationality and liberty in British India, it is only in the nature of things that this State should not escape participation in the ferment that is noticeable all over India. We

should be thankful that the new spirit has not assumed any of those aggressive or ugly forms which it has taken in some other parts of India. Even here, the agitator had to be taken betimes in hand—although our agitator was a comparatively mild and harmless personage—and both the schoolboy and certain sections of the general public had to be warned of the dangers of adopting the creed as presented by an extreme section of the agitators, which might, when carried into action, commit them to courses which they would inevitably have to deplore. They had to be reminded that as far as Mysore was concerned they had all that a genuine nationalist could wish for. We have in the first place this great Assembly fully representative of the people. Every administrative question and every action of Government it is open to the members to interpellate Government upon and have it discussed in the full Assembly. Next we have the Legislative Council to which His Highness has been graciously pleased to allow two members to be elected by this Assembly. Then we have the Council of His Highness the Maharaja and the Maharaja himself at the apex of the constitution. We have a completely organised system of Government modelled on that of British India and manned almost entirely by Indians. The efforts of Government have been continuously directed to the promotion of the moral and material good of the people; and they have further in view the constitution of what is known as the Village Tank Panchayet which, as has been acknowledged, has great potentialities in it. If even a part of what Government anticipate from this measure is realised, we shall have gone far towards solving the question of real local self-government, the achievement of which our country-men in other parts of India are striving after.

131. Possessing all these advantages it would be sheer folly if, misled by catch phrases and spurious agitation, we allowed ourselves to be seduced from our duty to ourselves and to the State, and countenanced the mad preachings of misguided agitators. There is nothing wrong in the new spirit itself, but when it assumes the form of impatience of all authority and fosters lawlessness in unbalanced minds, it becomes a source of danger to society and prejudicial to well-ordered progress. I am confident that I am expressing the sentiments of one and all of you, representatives of the people of Mysore, when I say how utterly we abhor and condemn the terrible outrages recently perpetrated by a few misguided and fanatical agitators and how alien to our nature are the ideas and methods of which these outrages are the outcome and the expression.

132. Over and above our duty to the State and to our Maharaja, we have a duty to the Paramount Power to whom we, both ourselves and the State, owe so much; and anything calculated to weaken loyalty to the British Throne should be discountenanced and repelled by you. We owe our external security to that great power and what advance we may have made in constitutional government is due mostly to the sympathy and guidance of that power. I cannot conclude this address better than by quoting the words of His Highness the Maharaja addressed a few months ago to the Representative of the Paramount Power, words which express with a simple directness the loyal feeling of the people of Mysore towards the British Throne :—

"You have referred to the peculiar relation in which Mysore stands with regard to the Government and officers of the Paramount Power. This relation stands on a solid basis of benefit conferred on the one hand and, as I am proud to maintain, justified on the other. The friendship thus begun has been confirmed and cemented by the closest and most cordial intercourse at work and at play, in fair weather and in foul, for more than a hundred years. That these relations may ever be continued is, I can assure you, the earnest desire of Mysore and its Ruler."

V. P. MADHAVA RAO,
Dewan of Mysore.

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